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CPYRGHT

Soviet Intelligence Recruit

New York Woman Went as Tourist, Returned as 'Informer'

CPYRGHT

By EDWARD W. O'BRIEN

FROM THE PRESS WASHINGTON BUREAU

A 28-year-old New York woman has told the Justice Department that she was recruited by Soviet Intelligence to furnish information about any American efforts to cause defections among Russian stage performers visiting the United States under the Cultural Exchange Program.

The woman, Miss Natalie Bienstock, said in two sworn statements that she sent to a Soviet contact the names of agents of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation who had some association with Russian entertainers in this country.

She also said she turned in to her Soviet contact the name of a Russian ballerina who was regarded by Miss Bienstock as "a possibly disloyal citizen of the Soviet Union."

Miss Bienstock said in her statements to the Justice Department that an agent of an "unknown" American agency "wanted to pass a letter of unknown content" to the dancer, who was touring the United States as a member of the Leningrad Kirov Ballet.

ACCORDING TO Miss Bienstock's statements, she transmitted the information in secret writing in a series of letters addressed to Leo Sorokine at 680 Park Ave., Manhattan, and signed in code names.

At the time, the address was the location of the headquarters of the Soviet Union delegation to the United Nations.

The letters were sent between April, 1962 and February, 1963, Miss Bienstock said.

During the first part of this period, she was employed as a Russian interpreter and road company secretary by Hurok Attractions, Inc., the large concert management firm in New York which handles almost all visiting Russian stage groups in this country.

Since the fall of 1962, Miss Bienstock has been an instructor in freshman Russian and a graduate

student in Russian literature at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

In her next-to-last letter to her Soviet contact, she said, she "probably" transmitted the name of an American student at Cornell who association with two Soviet students" attending Cornell as exchange students.

"I SEVERED my connection with Soviet Intelligence by secret writing from Ithaca some time around February, 1963," Miss Bienstock swore.

Since then, she said in her statements to the Justice Department, "I have ceased any and all activities and connections with any Soviet organization whatsoever."

Miss Bienstock told her own story in explicit detail in two statements filed with the Justice Department on Oct. 19.

One statement was filed under a law requiring registration by persons acting as agents of foreign governments or other foreign principals.

The other was filed under a little-known 1956 law requiring registration by persons trained in espionage or sabotage or receiving such an assignment from a foreign government.

Both laws provide that the registration statements are public records.

Miss Bienstock's statements were examined by this reporter as public documents. Later, in a two-hour interview in Ithaca, she repeated the substance of the information and added many details.

IN HER Justice Department statements, she did not offer an explanation of why she undertook the Soviet assignment or why, as she said, she eventually terminated it.

In the interview she indicated she had been coerced, while visiting Moscow as a tourist, into agreeing to carry out the mission. She said she realizes now she should have gone to the FBI immediately on her

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